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EVENTS OF THE DAY

IN CHARGE OF

GARNET ISABEL PELTON

THE WAR. During September and the early part of October there were no marked changes on the various battle-fronts in Europe. Greece, unlike her astute neighbor Roumania, has vacillated beyond the psychological moment. A year ago, when Bulgaria joined the Central Powers and went against Serbia, the Allies promised to give Greece, Cyprus, Smyrna and the islands of the Egean if she would join them and thereby help save Serbia. Her army was in good condition but she hesitated, for the Greek queen is sister to the Kaiser, and the king is a soldier who believed Germany could not be beaten. Venizelos, then Greek premier, believed the hope of Greece lay in committing it to the Allies; so he permitted the Allies, who had come too late to save Serbia, to fall back into Greece where, at Salonica, they have continued to assemble. Today Greece is in open revolt between the followers of the king and those of Venizelos. The Allies have forced the king to disband the army and to suppress German propaganda. They also control the telegraph lines and the mails and have stationed their warships in the harbor of Athens. Bulgaria, taking advantage of this defenceless condition, has attacked Greek forts and sent 40,000 prisoners to Germany. Thus Greece, her army disbanded, torn by internal revolt, virtually controlled but not protected by the Allies, has now lost even their promises. On October 8, a German submarine sank several ships (none American) off Nantucket, just outside our neutral zone.

THE FEDERAL CHILD LABOR LAW. Among the noteworthy bills passed by the first session of the Sixty-fourth Congress (which adjourned September 8) was the Federal Child Labor Bill. It was signed by President Wilson on September 1, and goes into effect a year from that date. The bill conforms in all essential respects to that worked out by Owen H. Lovejoy, secretary of the National Child Labor Committee. Its authority rests on that clause in the Constitution which gives Congress power over interstate commerce, the only path through which federal legislation could touch this wrong. It took ten years of agitation in Congress to pass the measure. Its last opponents were certain cotton manufacturers of the south who had to confess they were employing twelve-year-old children eleven hours a day. According to the bill it will be illegal for the products of any

mine or quarry that employs children under sixteen years of age; or for the products of any mill, cannery, workshop, or manufacturing establishment that employs children under fourteen years of age; or of any industrial establishments that employ children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years more than eight hours a day, six days a week, or earlier than six o'clock in the morning or later than seven o'clock in the evening, to enter interstate commerce. Goods also are excluded if children have been employed within thirty days prior to the removal of the goods. This last clause Mr. Lovejoy points out to critics as meaning that goods cannot be shipped unless all the children employed in the establishment have been dismissed thirty days prior to the removal of the goods. The bill will reach 150,000 children, but there are 1,850,000 others, working in the states, who cannot be reached by federal legislation.

SUFFRAGE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. For the first time in history, woman's suffrage has become an issue in a presidential campaign. The reason is that since the last campaign, four years ago, Kansas, Oregon, Arizona, Illinois, Montana, and Nevada have joined the ranks, thus doubling the number of suffrage states. These suffrage states can turn the election. It is not surprising, therefore, to find this year a suffrage plank in the platform of every political party. The Socialist, Prohibition, and Progressive parties all declare for woman's suffrage by an amendment to the Federal Constitution. The Democratic party favors it by state legislation. The Republican platform seems to do the same but its wording is a bit equivocal. Hughes, the Republican candidate, however, has come out for the Federal amendment.

From the woman's side, the suffrage campaign is represented officially by two associations, the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the Woman's Party (the branch of the Congressional Union in the enfranchised states). Both associations are non-partisan, and the chief object of each is the same: to secure the passage of the Federal, better known as the Susan B. Anthony, amendment. Their tactics differ. The Woman's Party definitely opposes the only party (Democratic) which neither by its platform nor by its candidate has declared for the Federal Amendment, and which has blocked the bill in Congress. It does this by trying to enlist a majority of the 4,000,000 women voters of the suffrage states to defeat Wilson and all Democratic Congressional candidates. The tactics of the N. A. W. S. Association are less radical. It has resolved "to concentrate all its resources—to carry the Federal Amendment through the last session of the Sixty-fourth Congress" (which convenes in December) and to continue its work in state legislation "preparatory to that end."